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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/602,490	06/23/2000	Reiner Kraft	ARC9-1999-0245	1404

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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/602,490

Applicant(s)

KRAFT, REINER

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicants' Amendment filed on September 28 2005. Claims 1, 3, 9, 14, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-23 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Culliss (U.S. Pat. No. 6,539,377) in view of Gormley et al (hereinafter, "Gormley", U.S. Pat. No. 5,628,004) and in further view of Walker et al (hereinafter, "Walker", U.S. Pat. 5,862,223).

As per claims 1 and 22, Culliss discloses a method and computer readable medium of sharing queries in a hub-processing unit coupled to a plurality of information processing unites over a network, the method on the information-processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string from a first user (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41);
- determining if the URL string represent a query, if the string represents a query performing the sub-steps of (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41):

- a. storing the query in an information processing unit (col. 3, lines 46-65); and
- b. forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects the query for sharing with a second user connected to the hub processing unit (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Even though Culliss discloses sharing queries between a plurality of clients.

However, Culliss does not explicitly disclose:

- receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing (col. 10, lines 55-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 33-51).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Culliss by including a multi-user query library to store queries in order to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

Cullis in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Cullis in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produce an audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 14, Culliss discloses a client information-processing unit coupled via a network with a hub processing unit apparatus for sharing queries comprising:

- an input for receiving a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string from a first user (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41);
- a comparator for determining if the URL string represents a query (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41);
- an interface for storing the query in an information processing unit memory (col. 3, lines 46-65); and

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- an output for forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects the query for sharing (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Even though Culliss discloses sharing queries between a plurality of clients.

However, Culliss does not explicitly disclose:

- an input for receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- an input for receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing (col. 10, lines 55-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 33-51).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Culliss by including a multi-user query library to store queries in order to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

Cullis in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Cullis in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produced and audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 2 and 15, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from a query history list (col. 3, lines 36-51).

As per claim 3 and 16, Culliss in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of storing information in the accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query in response to the second user selecting the query from the query history list (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41).

Cullis in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Cullis in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of storing information in the accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query in response to the second user selecting the query from the query history list.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of storing information in the accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query in response to the second user selecting the query from the query history list (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produced and audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 4 and 17, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the determining step further includes the sub-step of analyzing the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query (col. 7, lines 16-23).

As per claims 5 and 18, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the user to the shared query (col. 5, lines 40-52, lines 65-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

As per claims 6 and 19, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the appending step further includes appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information (col. 6, lines 51-65).

As per claims 7 and 20, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the storing sub-step further includes storing the query in an information processing unit wherein the storing is temporary or permanent storage (col. 3, lines 36-55 and col. 7, lines 45-50).

As per claim 8, Culliss further discloses:

- a step of repetitively processing incoming strings as long as strings are received from the user (col. 5, lines 22-41).

As per claims 9 and 21, Culliss discloses a method of sharing queries in a hub-processing unit coupled to a plurality of client information processing units over a network, the method on the hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a query selected for sharing by a user of a client information processing system (col. 2, lines 40-43 and col. 5, lines 22-41);
- storing the query (col. 3, lines 46-65);
- processing the search requests (col. 5, lines 40-52); and
- receiving from a second user a selection of the query shared by the first user

However, Culliss does not explicitly disclose:

- , performing the further sub-steps of:
 - a. activating a hyperlink to request a search result set based upon the second user's selection of the hyperlink; and
 - b. displaying the search results set for the second user.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- performing the further sub-steps of:
 - a. activating a hyperlink to request a search result set based upon the second user's selection of the hyperlink (col. 11, lines 42-52); and
 - b. displaying the search results set for the second user (col. 9, lines 29-57, col. 10, lines 64-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 42-66).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Culliss by saving queries entered by a first or second client (user) in the multi-user query library to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

Cullis in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Cullis in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- means for awarding the first user for selecting the query for sharing.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- means for awarding the first user for selecting the query for sharing (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produced and audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 10, Culliss discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Culliss does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the capturing step further comprises capturing searches made through headlines for documents.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- wherein the capturing step further comprises capturing searches made through headlines for documents (col. 9, lines 29-57, col. 10, lines 64-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 42-66).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Culliss by saving queries entered by a first or second client (user) in the multi-user query library to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 11, Culliss discloses:

- wherein the receiving step further includes a sub-step of validating a received query string (col. 7, lines 16-23).

As per claim 12, Culliss in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Culliss in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the receiving step includes a step of awarding at least one of reward and points for at least one query submission by a user.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- wherein the receiving step includes a step of awarding at least one of reward and points for at least one query submission by a user (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an

incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produced and audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **13**, Culliss in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Culliss in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission.

Walker discloses a method for managing communications between an expert and an end user including:

- wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission (col. 21, lines 64-67, col. 22, lines 1-11 and lines 46-65, Walker discloses an expert user that shares answers with different users and each time the user is satisfied with an expert answer, the expert is awarded with an incentive for sharing answers with other users. The incentives are stored within a database in order to produced and audit trail. Therefore, Walker discloses storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing).

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cullis in view of Gormley by incorporating a database to store information to keep track of all payments/incentives awarded to user in order to produce an audit trail in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **23**, Culliss discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Culliss does not explicitly disclose:

- instructions for selective sharing URLs.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- instructions for selective sharing URLs (col. 9, lines 29-57, col. 10, lines 64-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 42-66).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Culliss by saving queries entered by a first or second client (user) in the multi-user query library to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

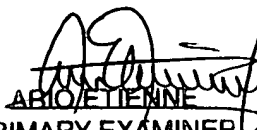
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
November 21, 2005


ARLO/ETIENNE
PRIMARY EXAMINER